



SOUTH DAKOTA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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South Dakota Catholic Conference Executive Director Chris Motz Stepping Down

March 9, 2022 (Sioux Falls) – The South Dakota Catholic Conference (SDCC), the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in South Dakota, will seek a new executive director to assist the bishops of South Dakota in their advocacy on behalf of human life and dignity, religious freedom and rights of conscience, parental freedom in education, and family-centered social policy. Chris Motz, who has led the conference through five legislative sessions, will transition into a new role as chief of staff to Bishop Donald DeGroot, shepherd of the Catholic diocese of Sioux Falls.

“I am deeply grateful to Bishop Swain and Bishop Gruss, whose foresight created the SDCC in 2017, and am humbled by the opportunity to serve both them and Bishops DeGroot and Muhich,” said Motz, the SDCC’s founding executive director.

“Our mission as Christians is to offer a joyful, articulate witness to God’s saving love in the world, including in the political sphere,” Motz said. “It has been a source of deep satisfaction to see the Lord stir in the hearts of those who dare to ponder the Gospel’s implications for human flourishing and the common good.”

“I am grateful for the excellent work Chris has done in bringing the light of Christ into the public square,” said Bishop Peter Muhich, leader of the diocese of Rapid City. “He has set a firm foundation for the continuing work of the Conference.”

“The Catholic Conference will miss Chris’ steady leadership,” added Bishop DeGroot. “Yet with this move, I am confident in the Lord’s continued providence for the ongoing and important work of the Conference in the years ahead.”

Motz will continue as an advisor to the SDCC as it transitions to new leadership. Applications for the position of executive director are currently being accepted. Interested persons can find more information on the position and application process [here](#).